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12/16/2005 04:02 PM

To: <EIR@longbeach.gov>  
cc:  
Subject: Environmental Impact Report, Terminal Improvements @ LGB

Attention: Ms. Angela Reynolds

Dear Ms. Reynolds,

I am an Airport Advisory Commissioner writing my personal opinion on the Terminal Improvement DEIR at Long Beach Airport.

During the Study Sessions in 2004, the fact that the number of airline parking positions is what ultimately determines the overall capacity of the airport was made over and over. While I support the proposed terminal size, I feel the number of airline parking positions should be limited to a maximum of 13, preferably 12. Even though the current noise allotment allows for 41 plus 25 commuter flights, 5 of the 41 commercial flights are cargo carriers which do not require terminal space and have separate parking.

Deed restrictions need to be in place, stringent ones, that will prevent the possibility of terminal space being used for anything other than what it was intended (such as, concession space being turned in to holding areas, walkways that stay walkways and not holding areas). Special attention should be given to design to create maximum benefit to all who use the terminal. It would be good to have several different designs to choose from and not cut corners on costs when it comes to design approaches. A blend of the old and the new is important to the final design, too.

The proposed parking structure will be designed to house rental car companies as well as parking and should be the first structure built as that in itself will relieve much of the congestion at the front of the airport.

The EIR cannot address cost, but creative financing, such as the current lease/lease back with the dominant carrier, would be a good approach. It is my understanding that the airlines are on a 30 day notice arrangement with the airport right now, and we certainly don't want to have a beautiful new structure and not be able to pay for it!

The approximately 103,000 square foot improvement seems to embody all of the space needs of staff, travelers and airlines and related fields. After several years of discussion, it is time for the City Council and Planning Commission and Cultural Heritage Commission to move this project forward, with special consideration given to the above suggestions for deed restrictions, parking positions, design and financing.

Sincerely,  
Carol Soccio  
Airport Advisory Commissioner  
3926 Rose Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90807